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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 14, 1971

Dear John

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As you are aware, in recent months there have been a number of violent acts directed at Soviet Embassy and UN Mission personnel, as well as other Soviet officials in this country. Following the shooting on October 20 into the Soviet UN Mission, the Soviets delivered a note to the Department of State threatening withdrawal of Soviet personnel from the US if such acts of violence are repeated. We are particularly concerned at this time that every step be taken in order to prevent an incident which might jeopardize the President's trip to Moscow.

The Jewish Defense League has implied that one of its objectives is to create sufficient tension in US-Soviet relations so that the President's trip will be cancelled. Rabbi Kahane, the JDL's leader, returned in October from a short stay in Israel, and since his return the level of JDL activity has risen substantially. Earlier this year, Kahane was sentenced to five years' probation in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York after pleading guilty to charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. Under the terms of his probation, a breach of the peace may be considered a violation and he "may have nothing to do directly or indirectly with guns, bombs, dynamite, gunpowder, fuses, molotov cocktails, clubs or other weapons." The US Probation Office in Brooklyn, however, does not itself have the personnel or facilities to develop fully information which might demonstrate a violation to the satisfaction of the Court, although it would appear that a violation may have already occurred.

The Honorable DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

John B. Connally

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We understand that the Alcohol, Tobacco Tax and Firearms Division of the Internal Revenue Service has assigned two officers, Mr. Mine and Mr. Laperch, to investigate JDL activities. We also understand, however, that Mr. Laperch is currently on detail in Washington on other business.

We believe it important at this time to increase current law enforcement efforts directed toward the JDL. We are informed that Kahane again left this country for Israel on November 18, stating an intention to return on December 26. He of course might return at any time, but in any case his absence does provide an opportunity to review carefully his activities since his return to the US in October. If a violation of Rabbi Kahane's probation were detected and law enforcement authorities were in a position to proceed against him immediately upon his return to this country, the JDL's ability to carry out illegal activities might be decreased.

We would therefore very much appreciate your Department's making this a matter of high priority. We are also asking the Justice Department to increase its investigation of JDL activities and Rabbi Kahane in particular.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,


Acting Secretary